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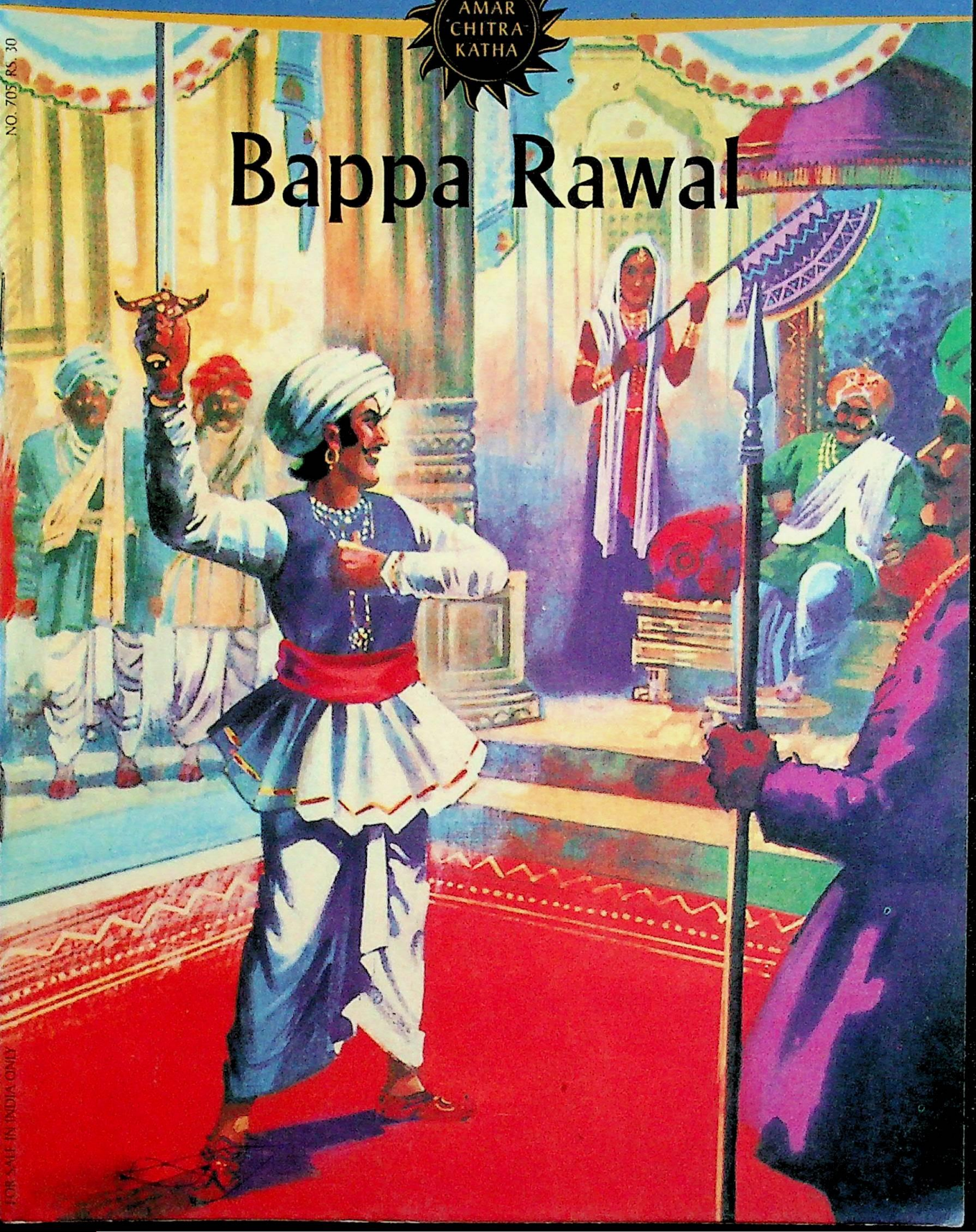
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

NO. 705 RS. 30

Bappa Rawal



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BAPPA RAWAL

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NAGADITYA, THE RULER OF IDUR, WAS KILLED BY HIS OWN BHIL SUBJECTS. THE QUEEN MOTHER, WITH HER ONLY SON, THE THREE-YEAR-OLD SHAILADHISH AND SOME LOYAL FOLLOWERS, WENT INTO HIDING. A FEW YEARS LATER -

RAJ GURU, I AM TIRED OF THIS HARD LIFE.

YOU WILL HAVE TO BEAR IT FOR THE SAKE OF THE PRINCE.

WILL HE HAVE NO RESPITE FROM THE ENEMY?

HE WILL. WE PLAN TO GIVE HIM ANOTHER NAME.

SINCE THE DESTINY OF MEWAR LIES IN THE HANDS OF THE PRINCE HIS NAME WILL NOW BE BAPPA RAWAL.

BUT HE WOULD STILL BE EASILY RECOGNISED, HERE!

WE WILL TAKE HIM TO PARASHAR VILLAGE, IN THE TRIKOOT RANGE.* NOBODY WILL RECOGNISE HIM THERE.

MUST YOU TAKE HIM AWAY FROM ME?

YES, IN THE INTERESTS OF MEWAR YOU WILL HAVE TO BEAR THIS SEPARATION.

*TODAY KNOWN AS THE ABU HILLS.

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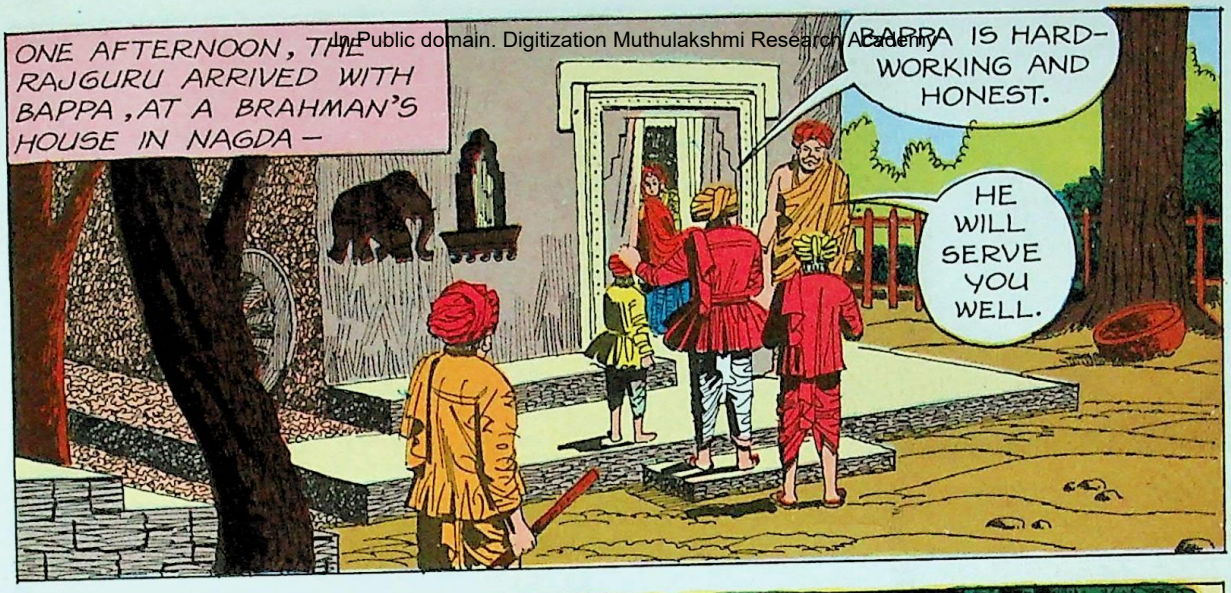

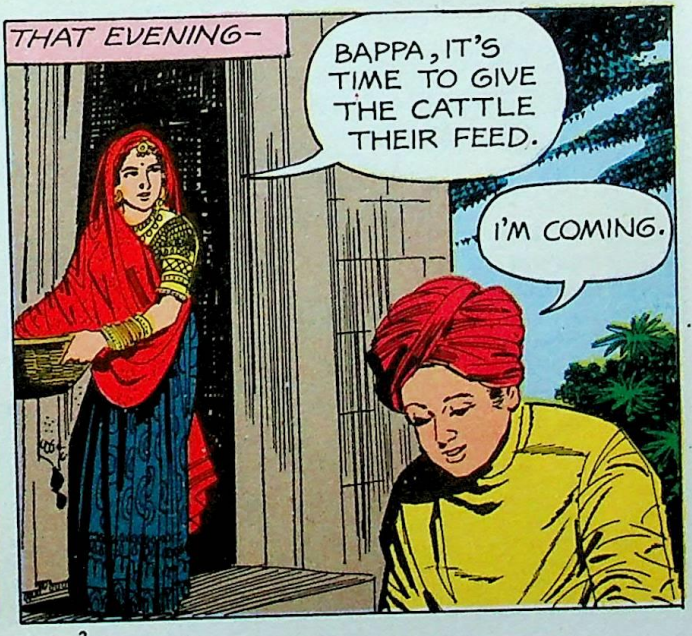

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BAPPA TOILED HARD AND SOON WON PRAISE FROM THE MASTER AND HIS WIFE.

BAPPA IS VERY INDUSTRIOUS INDEED.

HE NEVER SHIRKS WORK.

EVERY MORNING BAPPA USED TO TAKE THE CATTLE TO THE NEARBY HILLS AND RETURN WITH THEM IN THE EVENING. ONE DAY –

HEY! WHO ARE YOU?

I AM BALIYA. HE IS DEV.

WE ARE LEARNING TO SHOOT ARROWS. YOU CAN JOIN US IF YOU LIKE.

SO, WHILE THE CATTLE GRAZED, BAPPA PRACTISED ARCHERY. SOON –

YOU'VE HIT IT AGAIN, BAPPA!

HE'S NEVER MISSED A SINGLE SHOT.

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HAVING MASTERED ARCHERY, BAPPA BEGINS TO PRACTISE SWORD-FIGHTING...

...AND WRESTLING.

BAPPA, YOU HAVE GOT THE BETTER OF US IN SWORD-FIGHTING AS WELL AS IN WRESTLING.

HENCEFORWARD YOU ARE OUR LEADER. YOU COMMAND. WE OBEY.

MEANWHILE BAPPA'S IMPROVING PHYSIQUE MADE THE BRAHMAN'S WIFE SUSPICIOUS.

BAPPA IS NOT HONEST ANY MORE.

WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

DON'T YOU SEE HOW HEFTY HE HAS SUDDENLY BECOME?

HE'S A GROWING BOY.

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I HAVE MY DOUBTS. THE MILK YIELD OF OUR GREY COW HAS DECREASED.

YOU DON'T SUSPECT HIM OF DRINKING THE MILK, DO YOU?

BEFORE THE WIFE COULD SAY ANYTHING BAPPA ENTERED.

NO, IT CANNOT BE! BAPPA IS HONEST. MY WIFE IS MISTAKEN.

IS THAT ALL THERE IS? FOR SEVERAL DAYS THE GREY COW'S YIELD HAS BEEN LOW, BAPPA. WHY?

I TOO HAVE WONDERED WHY.

I SUSPECT YOU. YOU WILL HAVE TO PROVE YOUR HONESTY!

...AND CONVINCE MY WIFE.

BAPPA WAS HURT.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BAPPA? WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND?

OUR GREY COW HAS NOT BEEN GIVING ENOUGH MILK FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THE MASTER SUSPECTS ME.

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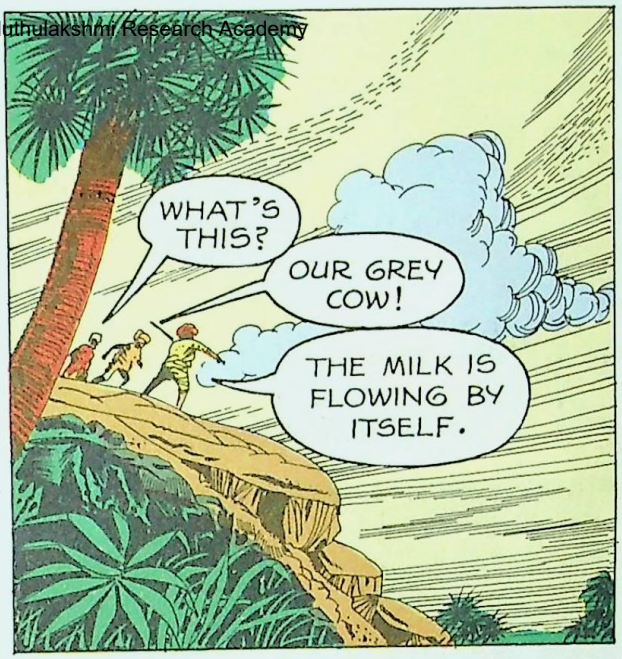

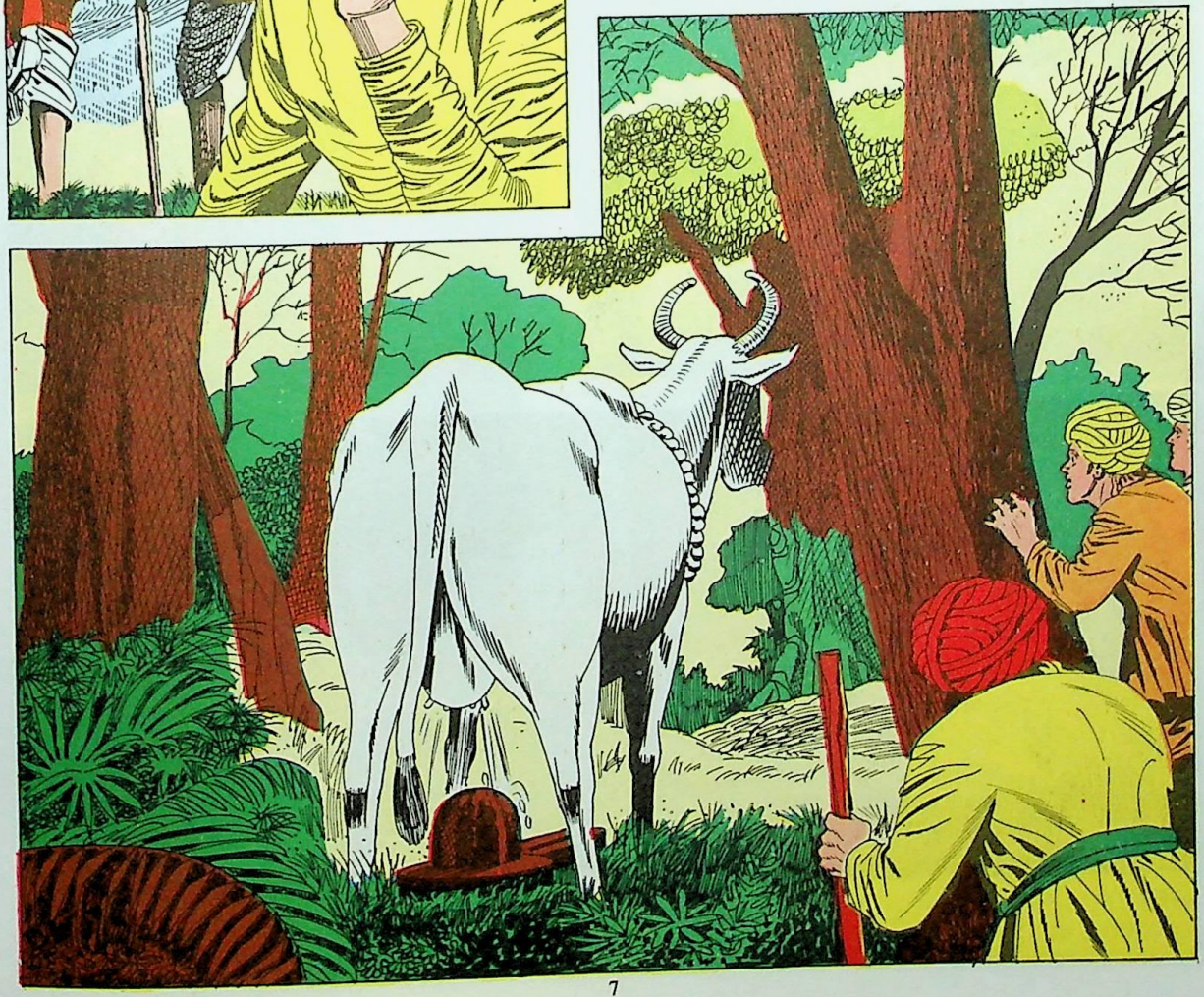

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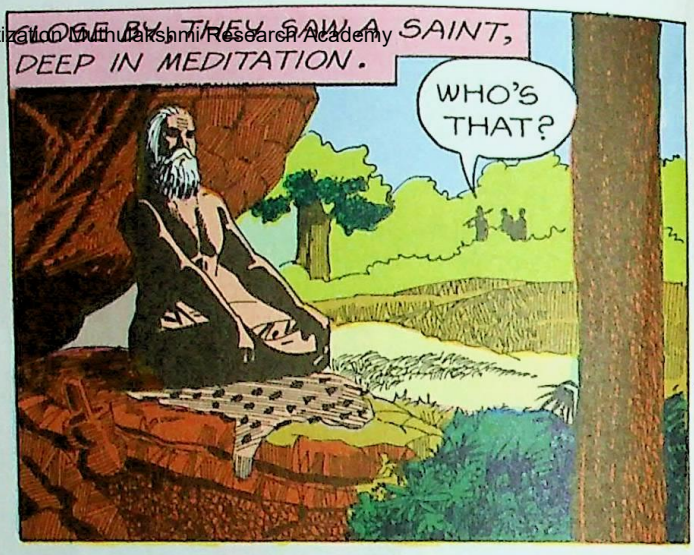

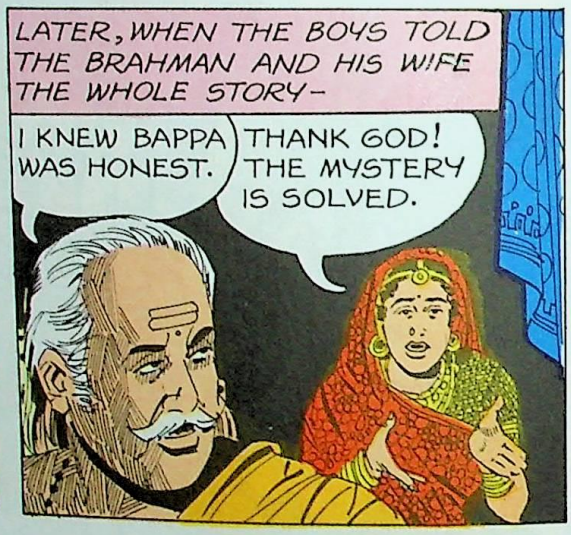

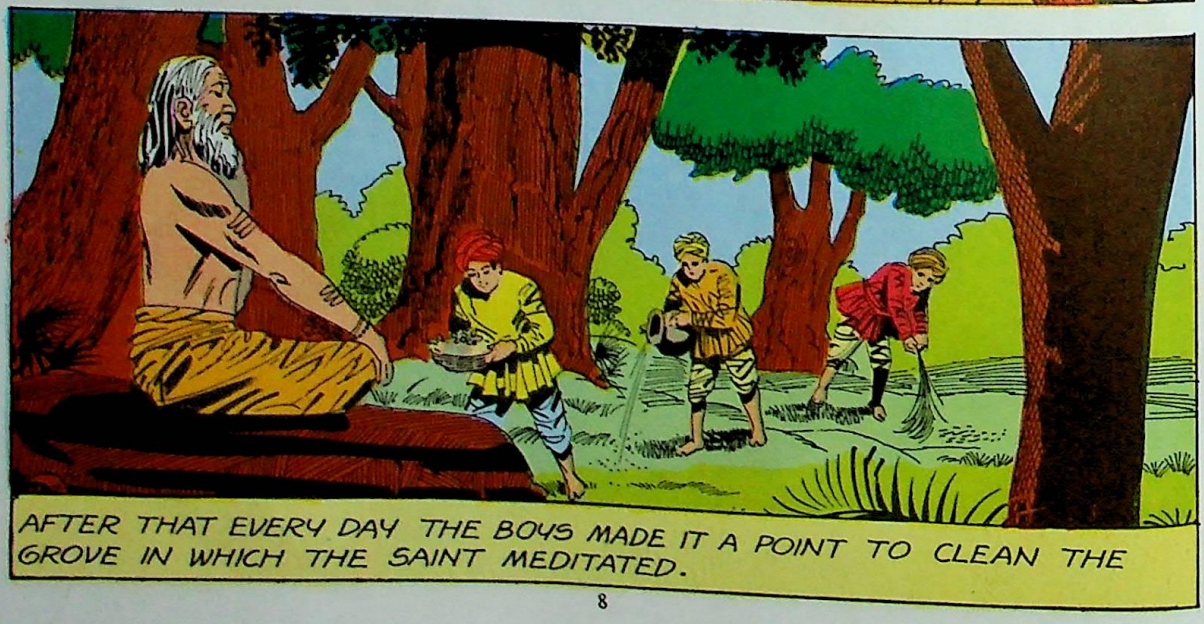

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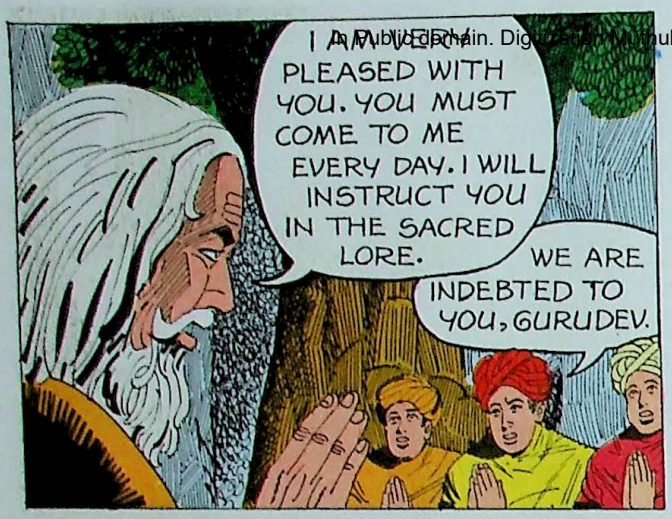

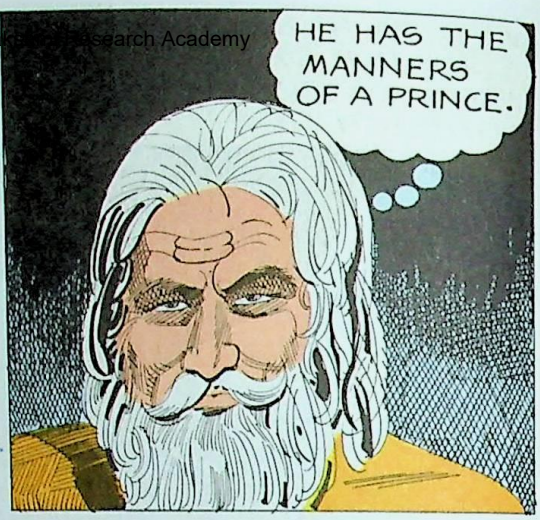

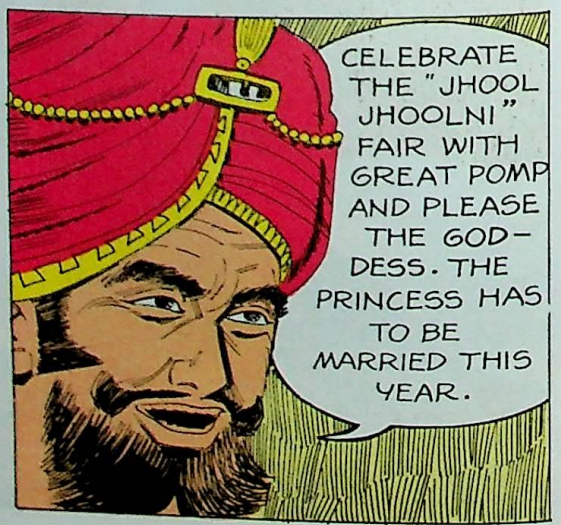

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ALONG WITH THE OTHER VILLAGERS, BAPPA AND HIS FRIENDS TOO WENT TO THE FAIR.

HAVE YOU BROUGHT ROPES FOR THE SWINGS?

THE PLEASURES OF THE FAIR WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT A TURN ON THE SWINGS.

THE SOLANKI PRINCESS ALSO CAME TO THE FAIR FOR A VISIT TO THE TEMPLE.

THIS IS THE FAIR-GROUND, PRINCESS.

FROM HERE, WE WILL GO ON FOOT TO THE TEMPLE.

AT THE TEMPLE –

MOTHER GODDESS, GRANT ME MY HEART'S DESIRE!

MAY ALL YOUR WISHES BE FULFILLED!

IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO TAKE A TURN ON THE SWINGS AT THE FAIR. NOT TO DO SO WAS CONSIDERED UNLUCKY.

RAJKUMARI, WE FORGOT TO BRING ROPES. HOW WILL WE SWING?

THOSE BOYS HAVE ROPES. THEY MIGHT HELP US OUT.

THE PRINCESS CALLED OUT TO BAPPA AND HIS FRIENDS.

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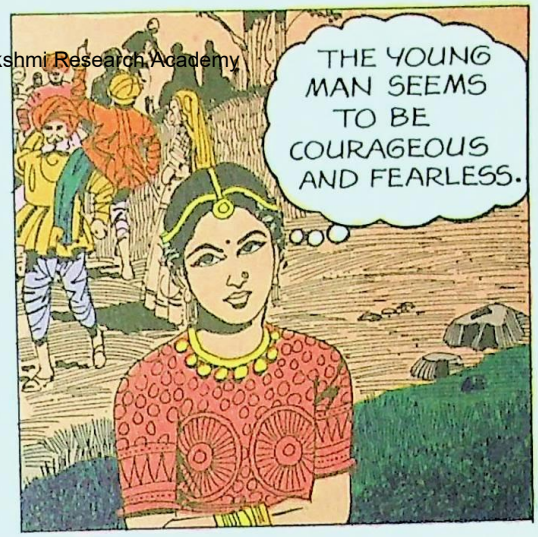

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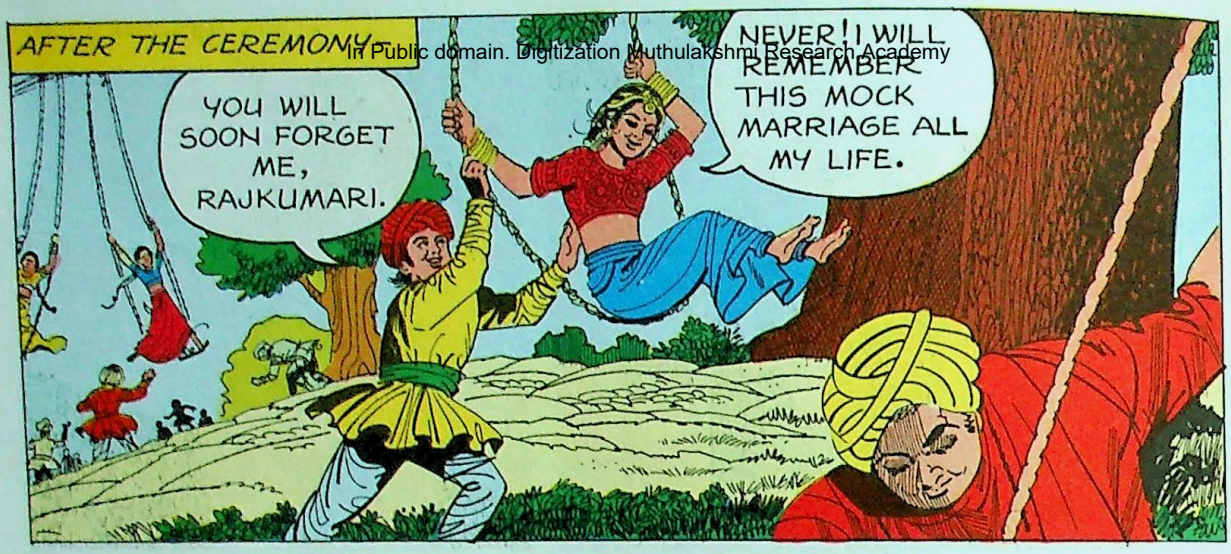

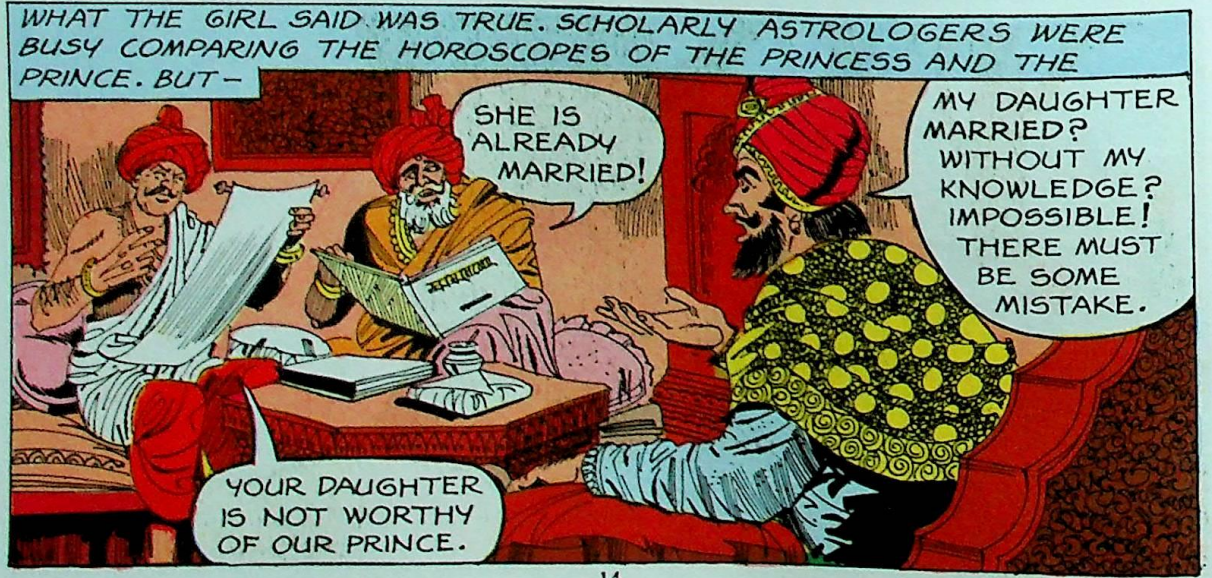

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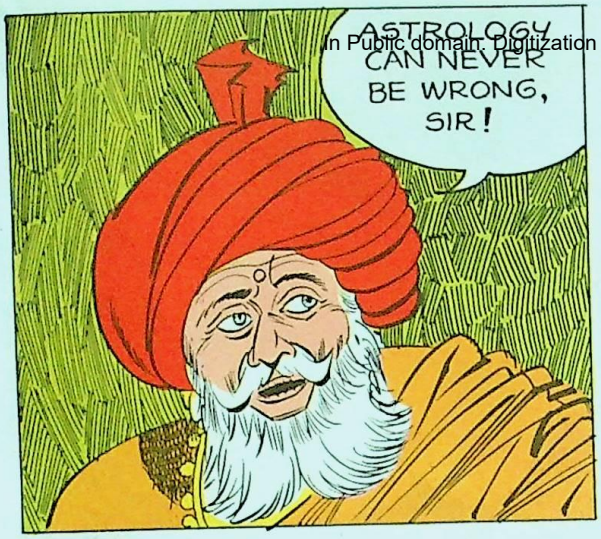

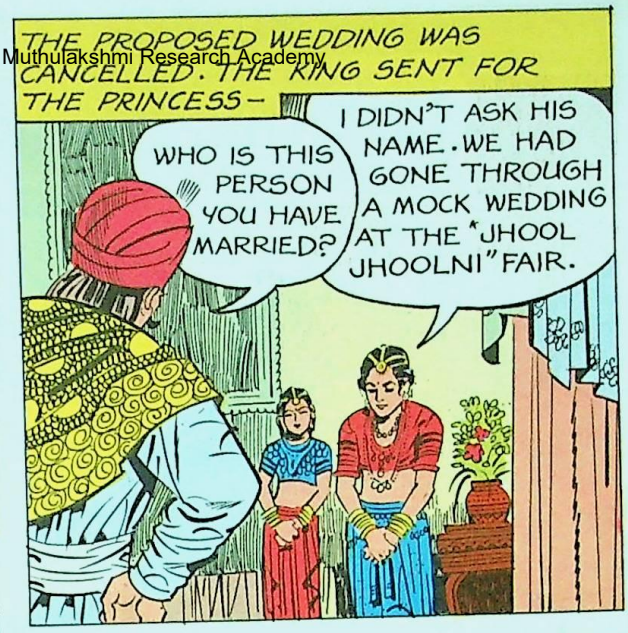

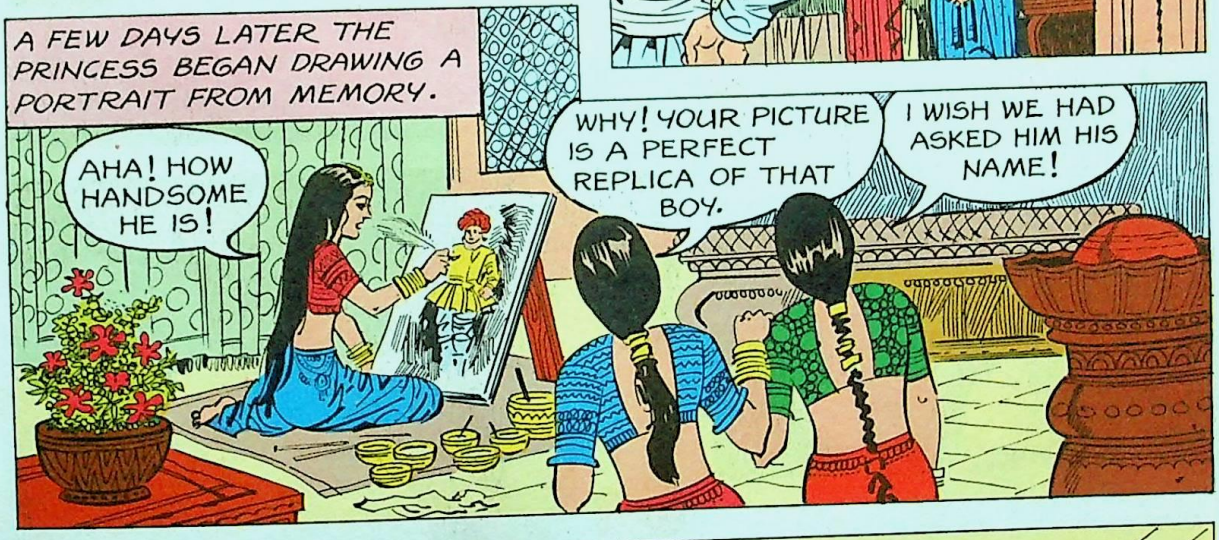

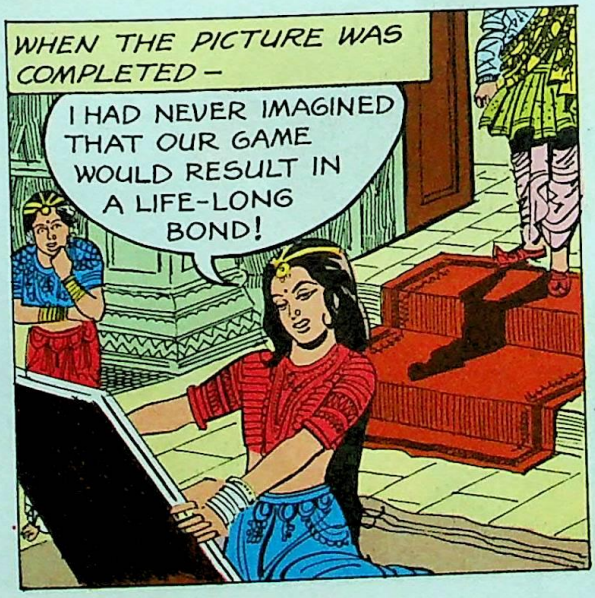

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THE KING TURNED TO HIS GUARDS.

THE YOUNG MAN IN THIS PICTURE, WHEREVER HE BE, SHALL BE BROUGHT BEFORE ME.

NEWS OF THE KING'S ORDERS REACHED BAPPA.

THE KING'S MEN ARE LOOKING FOR THE BOY WHO MARRIED THE PRINCESS IN FUN.

WE MUST NOT LET THEM KNOW THAT IT WAS YOU, BAPPA.

LET US TAKE THE OATH OF SECRECY.

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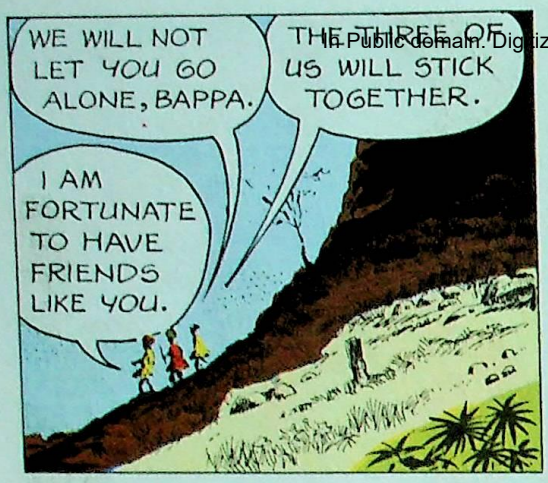

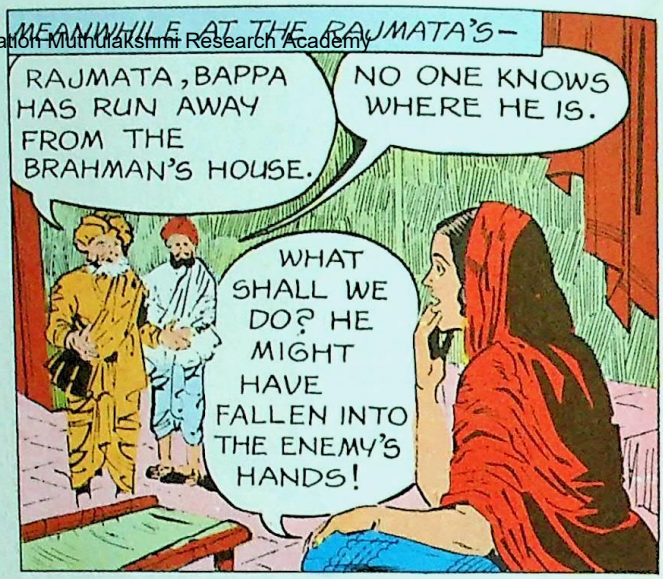

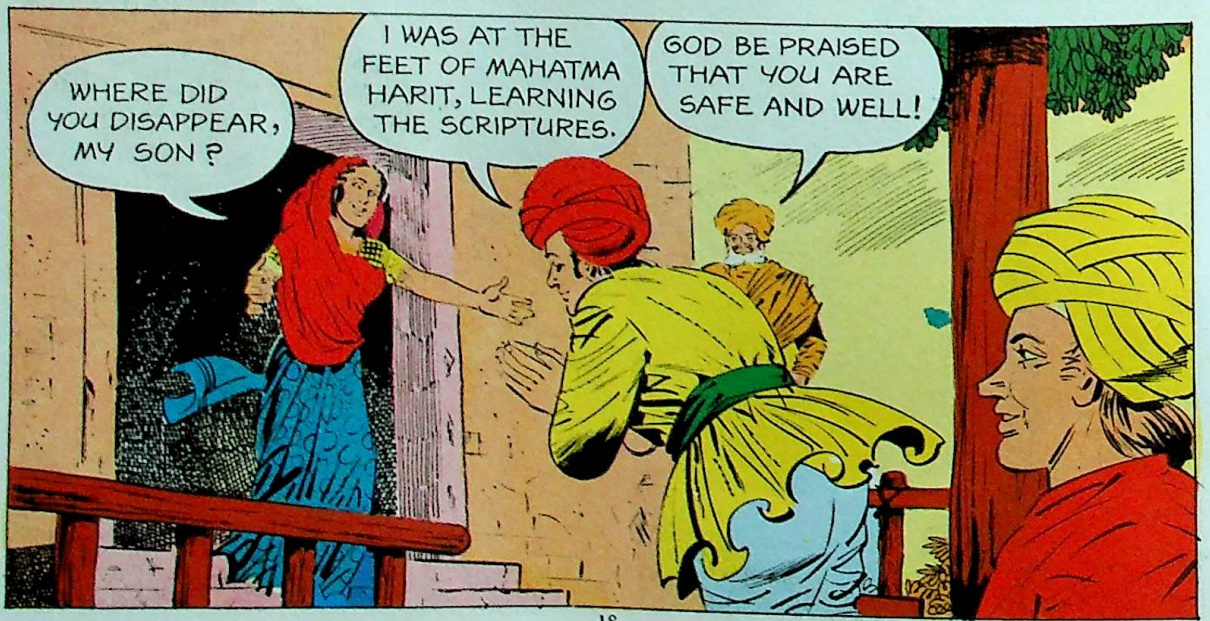

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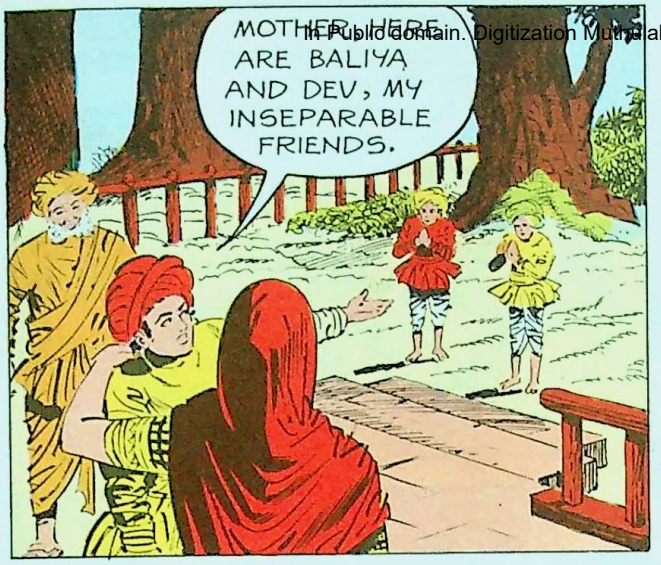

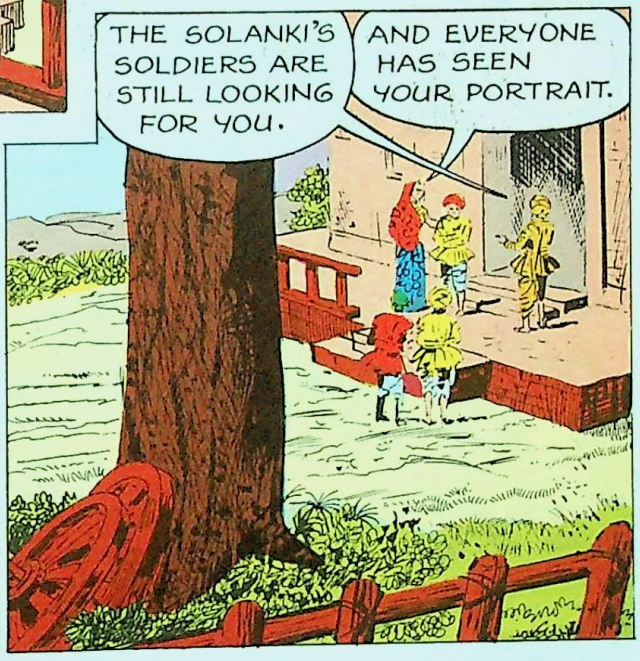

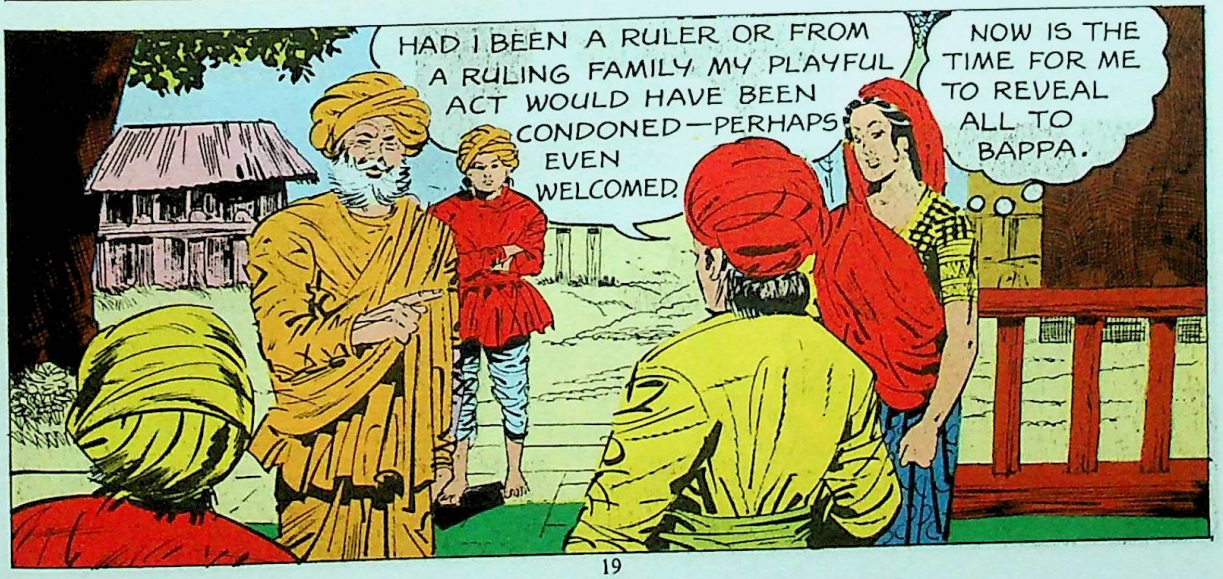

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THE RAJMATA TOLD HIM ALL ABOUT THEIR FAMILY AND WHY THEY HAD GONE INTO HIDING.

SON, I AM THE SISTER OF RAJA MORI OF CHITTOR.

A PRINCESS! YOU HAVE UNDERGONE ALL THIS FOR MY SAKE, MOTHER!

NOW THAT YOU ARE GROWN UP, DO YOUR DUTY, BAPPA.

I PROMISE THAT I WILL WIN BACK THE TERRITORIES OF MY FOREFATHERS AND RESTORE HONOUR TO THEM.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

BAPPA KI JAI!

IT'S A WARM DAY.

LET US REST FOR A WHILE.

LET US GO TO THAT HUT.

CLOSE TO THE HUT, BABA GORAKHNATH SAT IN MEDITATION.

HUSH! TAKE CARE NOT TO DISTURB HIM.

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A LITTLE LATER, GORAKHNATH INTERRUPTING HIS MEDITATION, STARED AT BAPPA. THEN—

BRILLIANT YOUNG MAN, A TIME WILL COME WHEN YOU WILL UNITE RAJASTHAN AND LEAD HER TO VICTORY! THIS MAGIC SWORD WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR MISSION.

BABA KI JAI!

A FEW DAYS LATER, THE FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD BAPPA ARRIVED AT THE COURT OF RAJA MORI.

COME, SIT BY MY SIDE.

RAJA MORI OBSERVED BAPPA FOR A FEW DAYS AND TESTED HIS ABILITIES. THEN—

I BESTOW A SMALL ESTATE ON BAPPA RAWAL AND APPOINT HIM TO MY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

MAHARAJ KI...

JAI!

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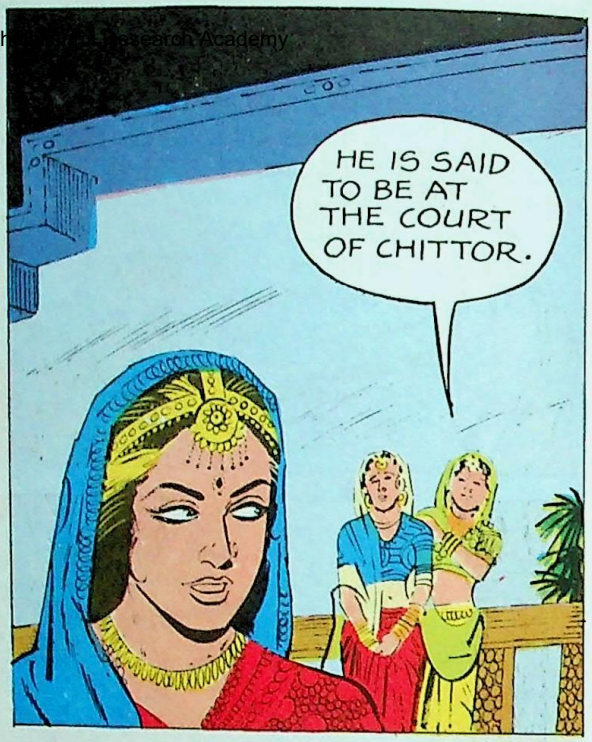

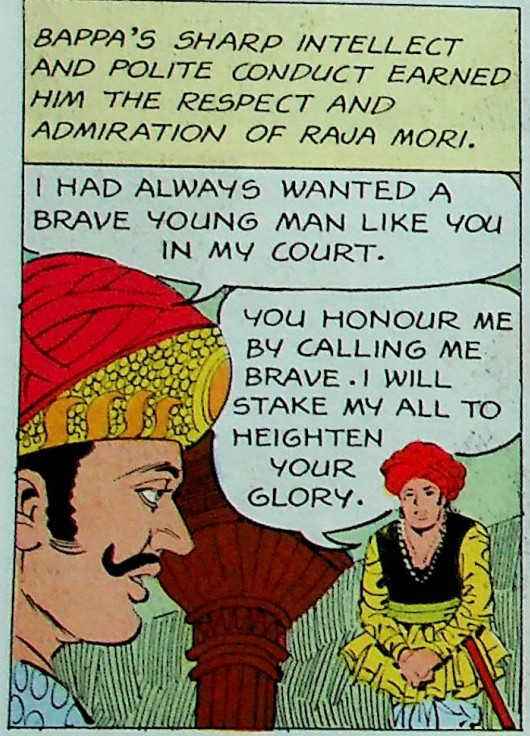

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RAJA MORI'S OLD MINISTERS WERE ENRAGED AT THIS APPOINTMENT.

THIS IS UNFAIR AND UNJUST!

OUR KING TRUSTS HIM BEYOND REASON!

HE IS HARDLY SIXTEEN YEARS OLD.

IN ALL RESPECTS, BAPPA IS OUR INFERIOR. HE HAS NO EXPERIENCE.

TO WORK UNDER A MERE BOY – WHAT A HUMILIATION!

MEANWHILE NEWS OF BAPPA'S VALOUR REACHED THE SOLANKI RULER TOO. HE FOUND OUT ALL ABOUT HIM.

HE IS THE MOST ELIGIBLE YOUTH FOR MY DAUGHTER. I MUST SEND A PROPOSAL TO HIM!

A WEDDING PROPOSAL! FROM THE SOLANKI!

OUR KING KNOWS ALL ABOUT YOU.

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SOON AFTER HIS ARRIVAL AT CHITTOR –

MY MINISTERS RESENT YOUR NEW APPOINTMENT.

I WILL GIVE IT UP IF YOU WISH.

NO. USE YOUR INNATE ABILITIES AND WIN THEM OVER.

YOUR CONFIDENCE IN ME GIVES ME GREAT STRENGTH.

MEANWHILE, AN ARAB RULER ADVANCED ON CHITTOR WITH HIS MIGHTY ARMIES.

A FOREIGNER HAS INVADED CHITTOR.

IT IS OUR SACRED DUTY TO PROTECT THE MOTHERLAND.

WE WILL NOT FIGHT.

YOUR REASON?

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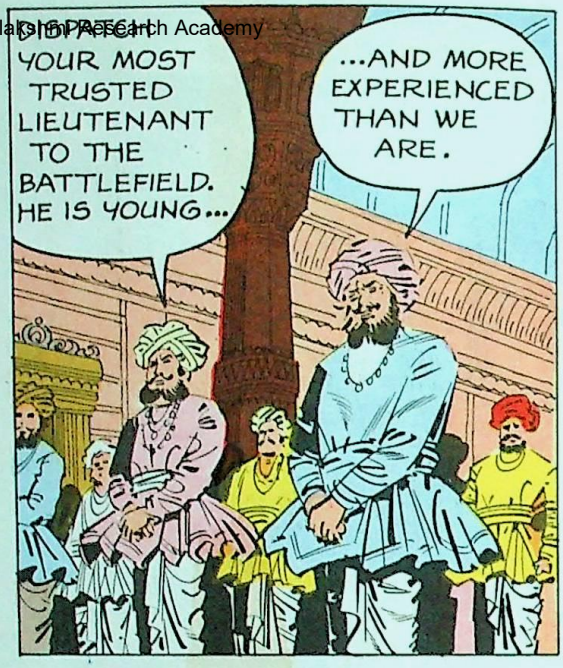

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BAPPA'S FORCES FOUGHT FIERCELY.

THE SOLANKI RULER OF NAGDA SENT HIS ARMY WHICH ATTACKED FROM THE REAR. THE ENEMY UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE DOUBLE-PRONGED ATTACK, MADE A HASTY RETREAT.

JUST THEN A SOLDIER RAN UP TO BAPPA.

WHAT IS IT, MY MAN?

THE COUNCILLORS ARE ASHAMED. THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE BATTLE-FIELD.

TELL THEM IT'S TOO LATE. THE ENEMY HAS BEEN ROUTED!

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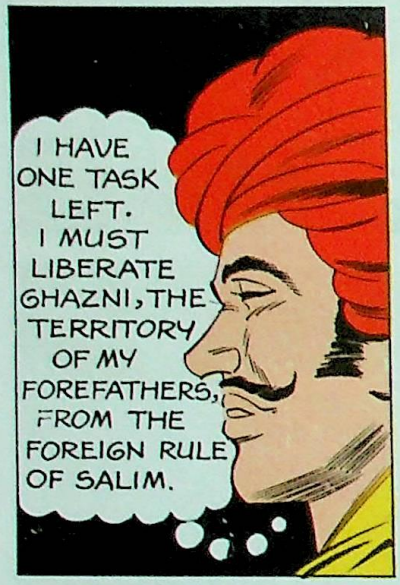

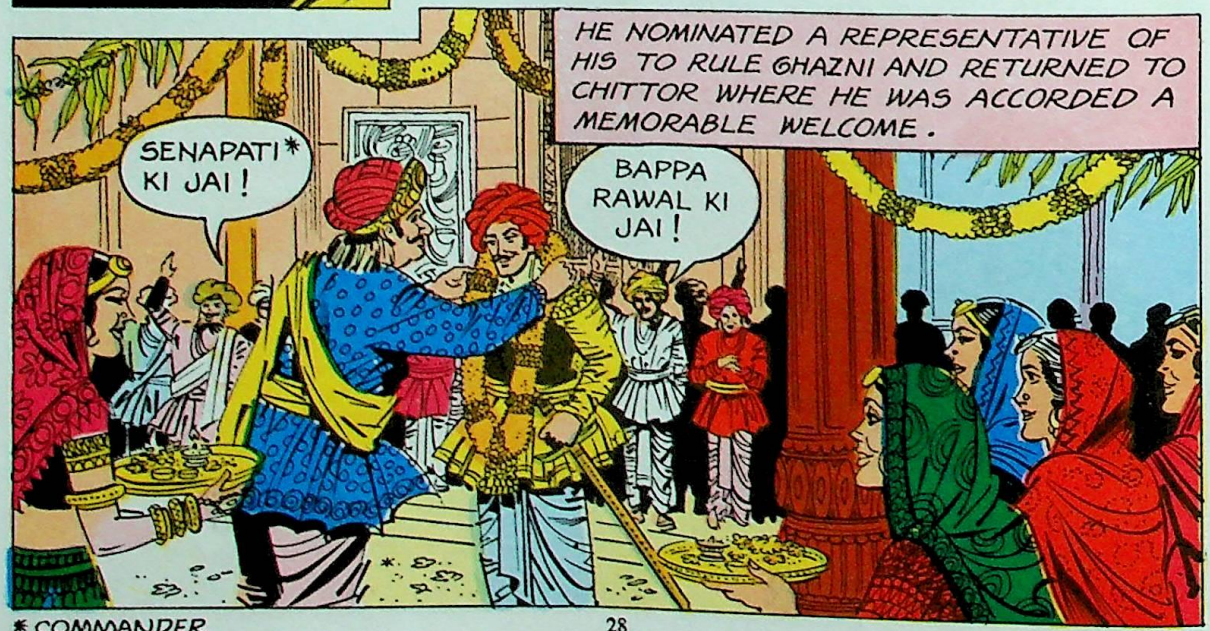

* COMMANDER

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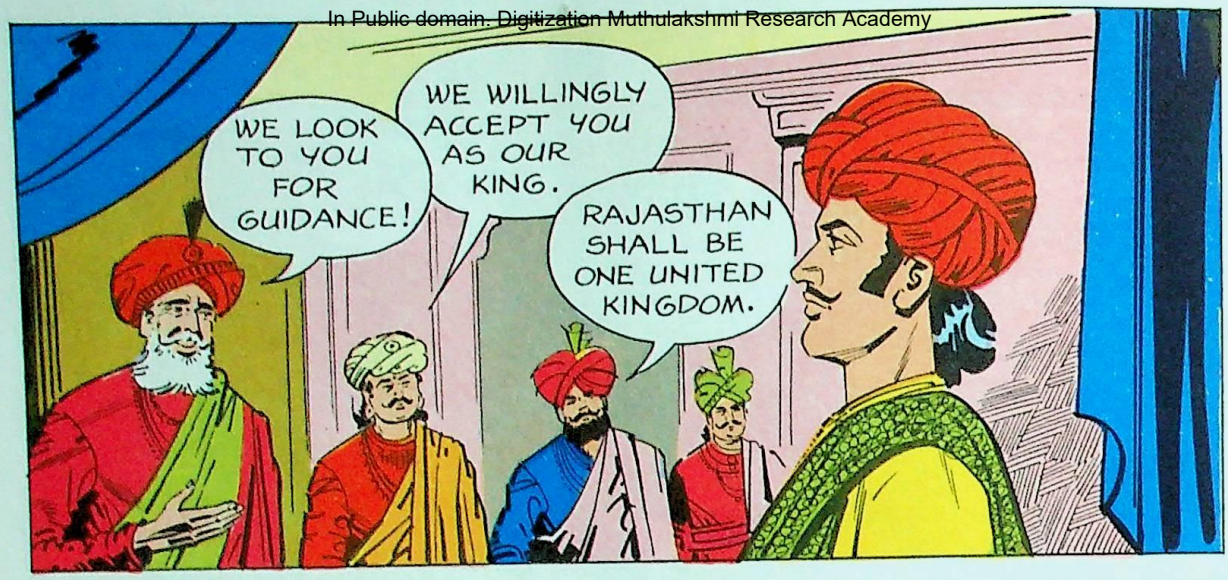

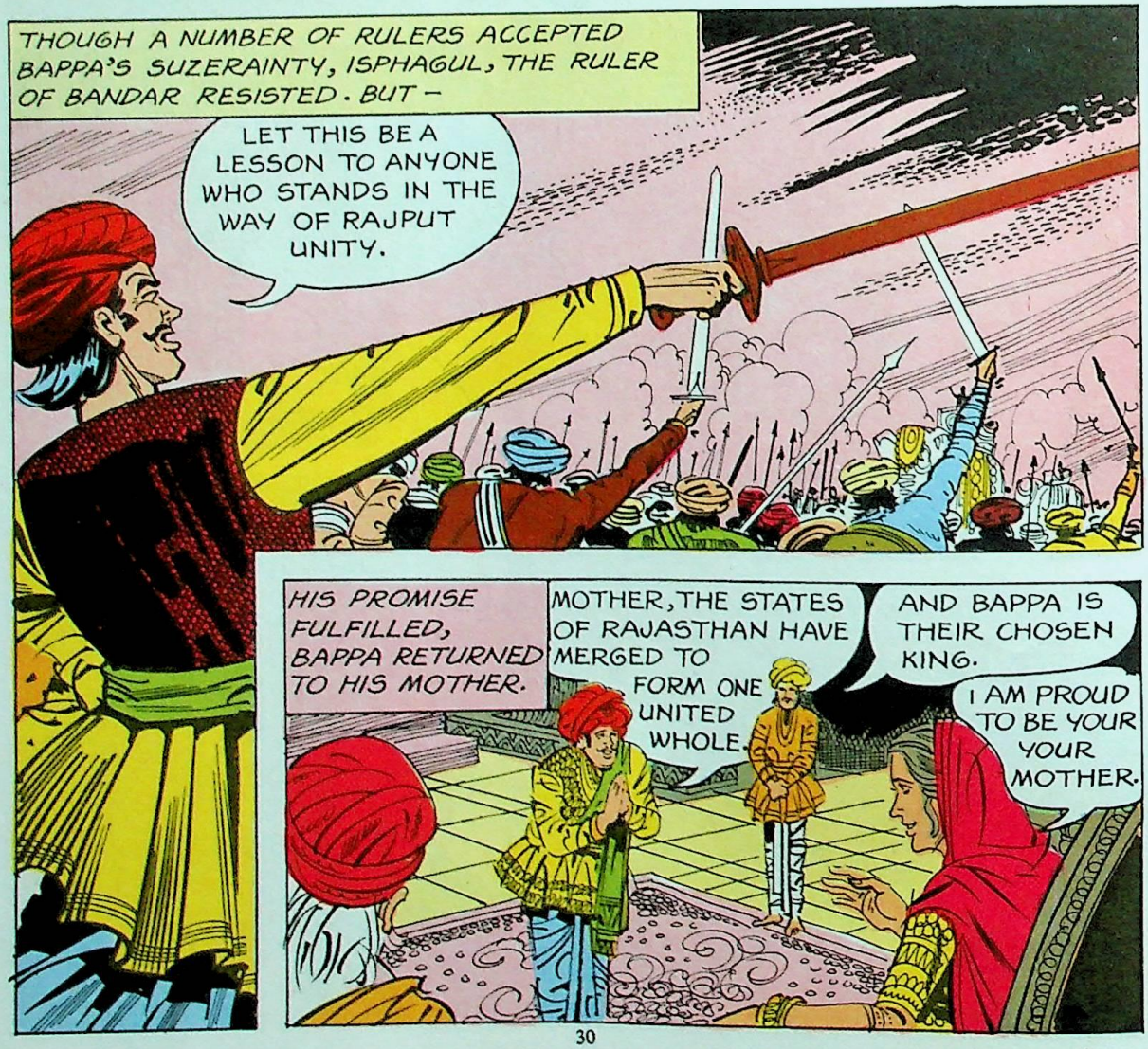

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BAPPA RAWAL AND HIS ARMIES INVADED VARIOUS COUNTRIES INCLUDING ISPAHAN, KANDAHAR, IRAN, TURAN AND KHORASAN AND BROUGHT THEM UNDER INDIAN RULE. SEVERAL YEARS LATER HE RETURNED TO CHITTOR.

FOR MANY YEARS BAPPA RULED CHITTOR.

MINISTER, IS ALL WELL IN OUR STATE?

YOUR SUBJECTS ARE ALL HAPPY AND CONTENTED.

THEN HE HANDED OVER THE KINGDOM TO HIS SON AND WENT AWAY TO THE HIMALAYAS WHERE HE DIED AT THE RIPE OLD AGE OF HUNDRED.

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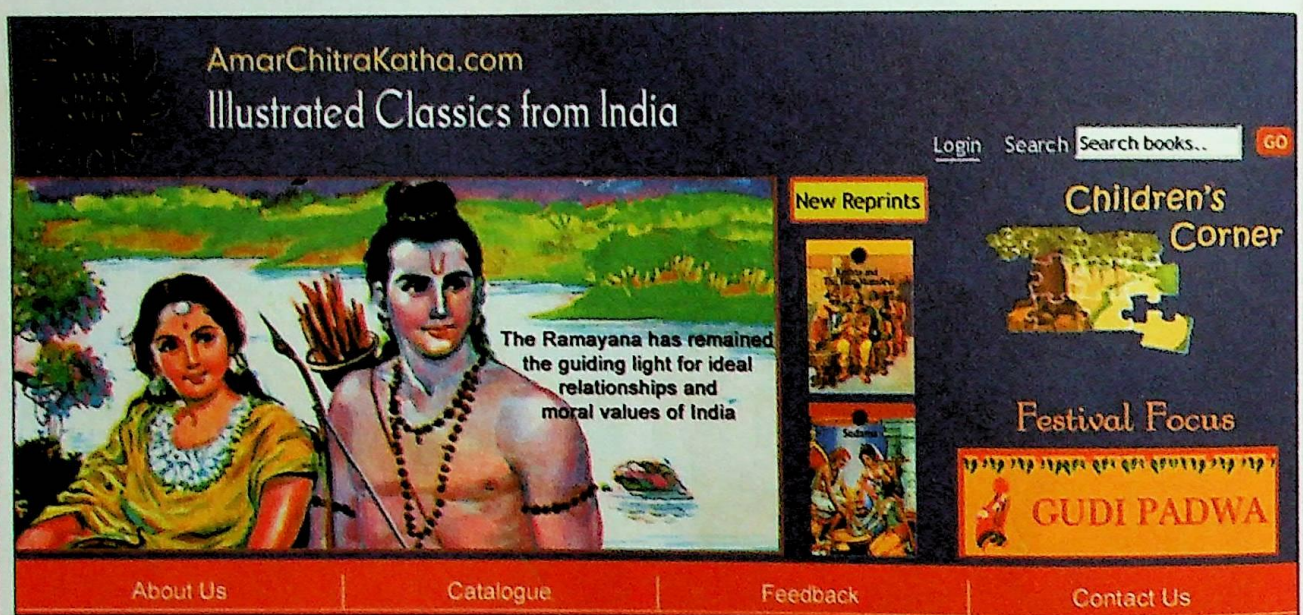

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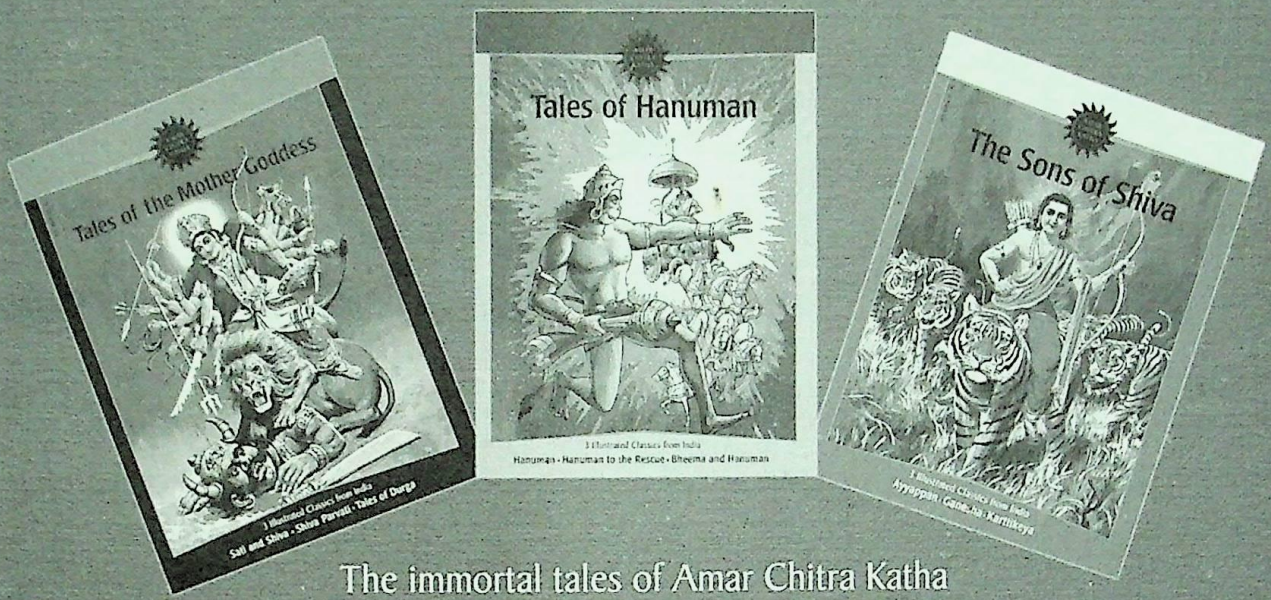

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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

Illustrated Classics From India

Bappa Rawal

By the seventh century, the Rajput kings had lost their kingdoms extending up to Ghazni in Afghanistan to their enemies. In the eighth century, the foreign adversaries had not only entered India across the River Indus and invaded large parts of western India, but had also established several small kingdoms in Rajasthan. Even so, the Hindu rulers failed to unite. There was not one Rajput ruler strong enough to drive the aliens out and bring together the small states by instilling a sense of peace and security among the people.

Such were the conditions when Prince Shailadhish, who was to become famous as Bappa Rawal - the father of a united Rajasthan – was compelled to go into hiding. He was a mere child when he was taken away from his mother to serve in a Brahmin household.

When he finally went to see her, his mother related to him how the Rajputs had once ruled over the territory up to Ghazni. At that moment Bappa made a vow, "I will win back the territory of my predecessors."

In the following pages you will read how, in the face of trials and tribulations, he redeemed his promise. The story in this Amar Chitra Katha has been adapted from the various legends about Bappa Rawal.

Founder Editor: Anant Pai

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